

## **REMARKS**

### **I. General**

Claims 1-19 stand pending in the present Application. Claims 8 and 12 have been canceled by the present Amendment. Accordingly, claims 1-7, 9-11, and 13-19 will remain pending after entry of the present Amendment.

The Advisory Action dated February 14, 2006 (hereinafter the Advisory Action) maintained the rejections of record with respect to claims 1-6, 8-10, and 17-19 being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and withdrew the rejection of record with respect to claim 7 being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Applicant notes with appreciation that the Advisory Action objects to claims 7 and 11-16 only on the grounds that these claims depend from rejected base claims. Accordingly, claims 7 and 11-16 would be allowable if written in independent form, reciting the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In an effort to expedite the issuance of the objected to claims, Applicant submits amendments herein to present claims 7, 11, 12, and 14-16 in independent form. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to recite the limitations of claims 8 and 12, thereby presenting originally submitted claim 12 in independent form. Because the limitations of claim 12 have been incorporated into claim 1, Applicant has canceled claim 12. Claim 13, originally dependent from claim 12, has been amended to depend from claim 1. Claim 7 has been amended to recite the limitations of claims 1 and 2, thereby presenting claim 7 in independent form. Claims 11, 14, 15, and 16 have been amended to recite the limitations of claims 1 and 8, thereby presenting each of claims 11, 14, 15, and 16 in independent form. Because the limitations of claim 8 have been incorporated into each of the independent claims, Applicant has canceled claim 8. Claim 9, originally dependent from claim 8, has been amended to depend from claim 1.

Each of the pending claims, as amended, recites limitations conceded by the Examiner to be patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that the present application is in condition for allowance.

Although Applicant has made amendments herein to present claims including

limitations conceded by the Examiner to be patentable, Applicant respectfully maintains that the originally submitted claims are patentable over the art of record at least for the reasons set forth in the Response dated January 9, 2005. Applicant does not intend to dedicate this subject matter to the public and expressly reserves the right to resubmit the subject matter of these originally submitted claims in a continuing application.

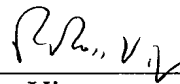
## **II. Summary**

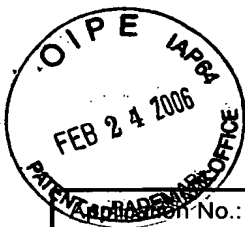
In view of the above, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that the claims be passed to issue.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 06-2380, under Order No. 61135/P004CP1CP1C1/10106025 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: February 24, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By   
R. Ross Viguet  
Registration No.: 42,203  
FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.  
2200 Ross Avenue, Suite 2800  
Dallas, Texas 75201-2784  
(214) 855-8185  
(214) 855-8200 (Fax)  
Attorney for Applicant



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